

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are presently pending in the application. Claims 1-20 are amended. Claims 1, 18, and 19 are independent.

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the outstanding claim rejections.

Interview of November 7, 2005

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Gregory B. Sefcheck and Primary examiner John Pezzlo for taking the time to discuss the present application with Applicants' representative, Jason Rhodes, during the personal interview on November 7, 2005. Applicants also thank the Examiner for discussing a proposed claim amendment on the telephone on November 9, 2005. The substance of these interviews is provided below.

Substance of the Interviews

- 1) **Identification of claims discussed:** Claim 1 was discussed.
- 2) **Identification of prior art discussed:** U.S. Patent No. 5,541,926 to Saito et al. (hereafter "Saito").
- 3) **Identification of proposed amendments:** During the telephone conversation, the Examiner and Applicants' representative discussed a proposed amendment for claim 1, which is very similar to the above amendment of claim 1.
- 4) **General results:** During the personal interview, Applicants' representative explained distinguishing features of the present invention. The Examiner indicated that some clarifying amendments were necessary for claim 1. An agreement was reached during the telephone conversation that the proposed amendment to claim 1 adequately addresses the Examiner's concerns regarding clarification and distinguishes over Saito.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thankfully acknowledge the indication that claims 5-8 and 13-16 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-4, 9-12, and 17-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over Saito. This rejection, insofar as it pertains to the presently pending claims, is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 has been amended in very similar form to the proposed claim amendment discussed during the telephone conversation between the Examiner and Applicants' representative.¹ Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 is now allowable over Saito.

Furthermore, Applicants submit that independent claims 18 and 19 have been amended similar to claim 1 and, thus, are similarly allowable over Saito. Also, Applicants submit that claims 2-4, 9-12, 17, and 20 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency on claim 1.

Thus, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance. However, should the Examiner believe that there are

¹ The only difference in the presently amended claim 1 is found in lines 9-10 ("in each STM time slot.").
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any outstanding matters in the present application, he is requested to contact Jason Rhodes (Reg. No. 47, 305) at the telephone number of the undersigned to discuss the application in an effort to expedite prosecution.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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